

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8, 19-28, 34-65 are pending. Claims 47-65 are newly added. Claims 9-18 and 29-33 have been canceled. The amendments and the new claims are fully supported by the specification and no new matter has been introduced.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the brief discussion (or "interview") conducted on January 11, 2006 regarding the claims. The Examiner indicated that the claims needed more clarification about the modification of the ratio of the ingredients. The Examiner made some suggestions regarding the type of language that she would consider for allowing the claims. The claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

Now, to the merits of the response, the numbered paragraphs below correspond to the Examiner's numbered paragraphs:

1. Claim 19 has been withdrawn. However, claim 19 depends from claim 1, which is now believed to be allowable. Rejoinder of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

2. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the rejoinder of claims 23-28 and claims 35-46 and her agreement with the Applicant's reasoning.

3./4. Claims 1-8, 20-28 and 34-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Berg et al. (5,464,650).

With respect to Claim 1, Berg fails to teach, "**modifying the ratio of the first ingredient with respect to the second ingredient in the coating formulation while the coating formulation is being discharged out from the coating dispenser and onto the stent.**" As discussed in the telephone call and as suggested by the Examiner, the claim has been clarified so as to recite that the modification occurs during the discharge of the formulation out from the coating dispenser. Berg simply fails to teach any kind of method resembling what has been recited by the quoted language. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentably allowable over Berg. Claims 2-8, 20, 21, 22, and 35-46 depend from claim 1 and are patentably allowable for at least the same reason.

With respect to Claim 23, Berg fails to teach “modifying the ratio of at least two of the ingredients with respect to each other in the coating formulation while the coating formulation is being supplied to a coating dispenser for discharging onto the device.” As discussed with the Examiner, Applicant is not contending the teaching of Berg as provided in the office action, but simply provides that Berg does not teach modification of the formulation while the coating is being supplied to the coating dispenser. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claim 23 is patentably allowable over Berg. Claims 24-28 depend from claim 23 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

With respect to claim 34, Applicant submits that Berg fails to teach (1) “graduated interface between the first and second ingredients”; and (2) “wherein the modification occurs without interrupting the application of the coating formulation onto the device from a coating dispenser.” There is absolutely no teaching in Berg about a “graduated interface” and that the method of modification occurs without interruption of the application of the coating formulation from the dispenser. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

5./6. Claims 1-8, 20-28 and 34-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ding (5,980,972) in view of Berg. The same arguments outlined above apply here as well, as the combination of the references fails to teach at least that which the Applicant has indicated above. For example, with respect to claim 1, the combination fails to teach “modifying the ratio of the first ingredient with respect to the second ingredient in the coating formulation while the coating formulation is being discharged out from the coating dispenser and onto the stent.” With respect to Claim 23, the references, alone or in combination, fail to teach “modifying the ratio of at least two of the ingredients with respect to each other in the coating formulation while the coating formulation is being supplied to a coating dispenser for discharging onto the device.” With respect to claim 34, the references, alone or in combination, fail to teach (1) “graduated interface between the first and second ingredients” and (2) “wherein the modification occurs without interrupting the application of the coating formulation onto the device from a coating dispenser.”

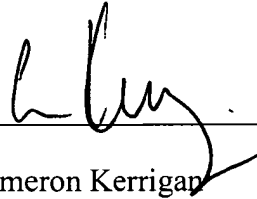
Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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